

Grace Episcopal Church
Scripture 202 – Introduction to the Bible
Session 7: Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Map for tonight

1. Opening devotion
2. Review, reflections, questions, insights, etc. on Bible readings
3. Review of Introduction of Bible Material – In Class work
4. Daniel's reflection
5. Compline

The Era of the Judges

Sources: Fant, Chapter 6, pp. 121- 134

Suggested Bible Readings: War; Joshua & the Promise Land; Angel of Yahweh; Samson

The Settlement of Canaan

Deuteronomistic Historian saw settlement as fulfillment of Yahweh's promise. Not a clear account.

2 views of settlement:

1. invasion
 - a. 1st campaign = Jericho
 - b. 2nd campaign = southern hill country of Judah
 - c. 3rd campaign = Kings of Galilee
2. gradual infiltration of Canaan
 - a. Judges 1:1-2:5
 - b. No single leader
 - c. No unified campaign
 - d. Gradual settlement by individual tribes or small groups

3 models of reconstructing of history of occupation of Canaan

1. Conquest Model
 - a. Joshua account; latter half of 13th century
 - b. Hard to tie to archaeological evidence
2. Immigration Model
 - a. Peaceful infiltration of Canaan
 - b. Slow take over of Canaan
 - c. Eventual merger into nation of Israel
3. Revolt Model
 - a. Sociological upheaval of peasantry who sought relief from oppressive feudal system

Points of agreement of the 3 models:

1. Israel emerged from a melting pot of peoples; remnants of the 12 tribes of Israel
2. Joshua or Exodus group played a critical role in the emergence of Israel
3. Israel initially occupied the Central Highlands

Tribal Life and Leadership

Unified group of tribes called Israel

1. amphictyony: confederacy of city states
2. loose confederacy that have a common Israelite identity
 - a. 3 structures
 - i. Family
 1. “father’s house” – extended family of several generations – some larger families might have had villages
 - ii. Clan
 1. groups of extended families or villages
 2. administered by elders or heads of families
 3. wealth, social status, prestige
 - iii. Tribe
 1. corporate of extended families
 2. membership with Israel = member in tribe
 3. changing entities depending on situation
 4. formed the house of Israel and house of Judah
 5. Judges primary
 - a. Military and tribal leaders
 - b. Took people from time of crisis
 - c. Charismatic leaders
 - d. Protects the just
 - e. Punishes offenders
 - f. Restores the right order of things

Storytelling format of Judges

1. Israel sins against Yahweh
2. leader rises up with Y’s blessing
3. Judge rallies the tribes
4. Y delivers Israel from enemies

In Class Work:

Number off 1 – 6. Take a section of Scripture and describe to class the following on each of the listed Judges of Israel:

1. Describe who the Judge is
2. Time frame in history ... Use handouts & Fant
3. How does the leader come to be a leader?
4. How does the Judge rally the tribes?
5. How does YHWH deliver Israel from enemies?
6. Anything else remarkable or of note

Judge:

Othniel from Judges 3:7-11

Ehud from Judges 3:12 – 30

Deborah from Judges 4:1 – 5:31

Gideon from Judges 6:1 – 8:35

Jephthah from Judges 10:6 – 12:7

Samson from Judges 13:1 – 16:31

Group Responses:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7. Your thoughts: